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THE
PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER
****
VOLUME 7   **   NUMBER 6
******
JUNE   1989

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MEETING

The JUNEL meeting will be:

on: FRI., JUNE 9, 1989

meeting room open at: 7:00 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
    FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L
    OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER
****

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE

COMPUTING THE FUTURE--
IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

SOAP BOX

With the late cold freeze we had this year, there were many who probably doubted that Spring or Summer would be coming. But a look outside, the last few weeks, should assure anyone that Spring indeed did (and Summer will) come.

During our long discussion with Bob Currie (Sysop of the Bull_Pen BBS) at our last meeting, there were many in attendance who voiced their doubts as to the coming of a National Sinclair Echo on the FidoNet. I will admit that for us Timex´ers, there seems to have been a prolonged freeze recently. If anyone has called the Bull_Pen lately, they would know for a fact that the we are now on the National Echo. This happened 4 weeks after our April meeting. I will be one of the first to admit that it happened a lot sooner than I had thought possible. (Somewhere in the neighborhood of 2 to 3 months was my guess.) However, the work has only just begun. It is *imperative* that CCAT/S members begin to use this

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echo. Not just for our own use, but to help keep alive the spirit of Sinclair computers nationally. [If room permits you will find the Rules for the Sinclair Echo along with some sample messages posted within the last few weeks elsewhere in this newsletter.]

I would like to thank everybody who was able to attend our night-out affair at Gate's Restaurant in lieu of our April meeting. From the response that night, I am sure everyone had a wonderful time. The food was delicious and the restaurant could not have served our purposes much better. A special thanks to Bob Evans for handling the arrangements and for suggesting this location. Not only did we have a lovely time, but our husbands and wives were able to meet (some for the first time) that mysterious group of people with whom we spend the 2nd Friday of each month. I, for one, am not sure I want to wait another year to do this again!

Sinclairly,
Michael E. Carver

LARKEN LINES

by: ROD GOWEN

Glad to see you here again! Summer is on the way and you may not be using your computers as much as before, but let's not forget to keep up with what is new in the world of LKDOS.

IT'S FINISHED AND HERE!!-

LARKEN SEQUENTIAL/RANDOM ACCESS softwre is available for your use through RMG or Larken Electronics. If you want a copy, contact one of the above. The price will be $15 plus shipping. It is a bargain at this price. It takes advantage of many built-in features of the 2068 that have never previously been used. Get in contact for more information and watch this column for a review.

MAX-DOS SYSTEM-

This month I am turning this section over to Dick Wagner, who will tell you a bit about his experiences getting the Oliger/Larken system up and running. Hope that you enjoy.

MAX DOS

Bill Jones of UP DATE magazine uses his combination Oliger SAFE DOS and Larken LKDOS cartidge as a complete operating system, using either at will. He calls this system "MAX DOS". Dick Wagner is our one member using this combination. He does not quite agree with Bill on part of the operating procedure necessary to implement MAX DOS. Possibly a difference in EPROM programs?

He reports that the problem of inability to initialize both DOS at power-up can be surmounted by starting with SAFE DOS "ON" at power-up as it automatically initializes. Then turn LKDOS "ON" and initialize with RANDOMIZE USR 96: OPEN #4,"dd". Note--do not use USR 100 for this step. Now check for proper operation of each system with a CAT of each type of disk.

If LKDOS is intialized first with SAFE DOS "OFF" then turn SAFE DOS "ON" and use the command RESTORE/S to initialize SAFE DOS. If either system drops out at any time the other can be re-initialized as above. WARNING--doing this for LKDOS will wipe out all material but using RESTORE/S for SAFE DOS will retain it, more like a hot start.

To use the non-maskable interupt (NMI) with LKDOS for COPY, when ready to COPY just switch off LKDOS and make the NMI COPY. Re-initializing LKDOS will wipe out the screen and program so make a SAVE before using the NMI.

Got a short Larken related program or modification that you have written? Why not send it in for publication? I am sue that you would be helping a lot of folks.

INFLATION!!

Dick F. Wagner

This short program seems appropriate at this time as there is continued talk of the status of INFLATION. In fact, this subject pops up all too often.

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As our readers vary a great deal in age, the information presented will cover an inflation period of 45 years which is about as long as many people remain employed at an income generating job.

This program is based on the formula, $M = 1.06^n$ where M is the multiplyer that tell you how many of todays dollars it takes to purchase the same item "n" years from now with an average inflation rate of 6% per annum. Just change the digits after the decimal point to use some other average inflation rate, such as .08 for 8%. The 6% is the average inflation rate for the last 20 years, give or take a little. The plotted curve will go off scale at 6% but it will still plot. For a number output use the formula in direct mode as PRINT (1+ % in decimal)^n for the desired number of years.

I got into this problem while working on a program to help estimate a person's retirement budget and income. It would have been nice to have had such a program available before I retired. Anyway, this inflation multiplyer program is a part of that effort.

```
100 PLOT 25,20: DRAW 0,150
110 PLOT 25,20: DRAW 225,0
120 PRINT AT  21,15;"YEARS"
130 PRINT AT 7,0;"M";AT 8,0;"U"
;AT 9,0;"T";AT 10,0;"I";AT 11,0;
"P";AT 12,0;"L";AT 13,0;"Y";AT 1
4,0;"E";AT 15,0;"R"
140 FOR X=25 TO 228 STEP 4
150 FOR S=20 TO 22
170 PLOT X,S
180 NEXT S: NEXT X
190 FOR X=25 TO 240 STEP 20
200 FOR S=20 TO 25
210 PLOT X,S
220 NEXT S: NEXT X
230 FOR Y=20 TO 170 STEP 10
240 FOR S=25 TO 29
250 PLOT S,Y
260 NEXT S: NEXT Y
270 FOR Y=20 TO 170 STEP 5
280 FOR S=25 TO 27
290 PLOT S,Y
300 NEXT S: NEXT Y
310 FOR Y=20 TO 170 STEP 50
320 FOR S=25 TO 32
330 PLOT S,Y: NEXT S: NEXT Y
340 PRINT AT 0,1;"15"
350 PRINT AT 6,1;"10"
360 PRINT AT 13,1;"5"
370 PRINT AT 19,1;"0"
380 FOR N=0 TO 25 STEP 5
390 PRINT AT 20,N+2;N*2
400 NEXT N
410 FOR N=0 TO 46 STEP .2
420 PLOT 25+4*N,19+10.14*(1.06*
N)
430 NEXT N
```

I. PURPOSE

This Echo is primarily directed towards Sinclair/Timex Users. It may also be used to find some one with whom exchange or sale of such items can or will be made. The BBS's carrying this area do not in any way intend to be responsible for such sales and transactions, as long as they are legal and above board.

II. ENCOURAGED BEHAVIOR

A. Be friendly and polite to one another.

B. Enter lots of messages.

C. Guests (non-Sinclair/Timex users) are welcome to read messages and to ask questions.

D. Users are encouraged to submit suggestions, comments, and ideas to help with the growth of this Echo. The users are the heart of the Echo and its existence is dependent upon your utilization of it.

III. DISCOURAGED BEHAVIOR

A. No offensive language of any type will be tolerated.

B. No "FLAMING" of individuals, things or what ever.

C. No illegal activities.

D. No uppercase - only messages. ALL CAPITAL LETTERS HAVE THE EFFECT OF SHOUTING. It is also an illiterate style. Please do not shout or be illiterate. **(Please disregard if you are a ZX81/TS1000/1500 user)**

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

Users are responsible for the Echo as a whole. Therefore, misuse by the users can cause the termination of the Echo in part or as a whole. You must insure that foul language is not tolerated and not used. Tell another user that he/she is incorrect in using foul language. If the other user continues, report it immediately to the System Operator.

>> >> >>

This can be done in a private message as necessary. You must utilize the Echo in the context of its design. Promote the free exchange of information and discourage misuse.

Bob Currie
1:105/204
SINCLAIR Echo Moderator
(503) 652-5803 Data - 24hrs - 7 Days

VU-CALC
SPREADSHEET PROGRAM FOR THE 2068.
Review by Betty Schaffler

The worksheet itself is a 50x50 grid, with spaces instead of lines marking the columns. Each column is 7 spaces and will hold figures or data. The instructions are easy to read and follow.

Jack Dohany of Redwood city, Ca. has created a customized version for the Larken disc and a big printer, in fact for a variety of printers. Jack has included a simple poke so that it is easy to customize to your own particular printer interface without having to load a printer-driver.

The uses of VU-CALC are many and varied such as calculating mortgage payments and interest, checkbook records, budgets, or simple bookkeeping.

Printing can be up to 19 columns wide and 50 rows and is in condensed print, and will fill an 8. 5 x 11 sheet. It is a good idea to imput your printer pokes before you begin and save information as a backup so that you will not have to enter it each time you use the program. The next thing will be to format for the use of decimal if needed. One thing I have found is that if you wait to put this in after you have entered a date you will have a year that will suddenly look like 1988.00. When you enter text you must always prefix it with ", and for commands (save, load, and print, etc.) you use # as a pre fix.

My one complaint is the fact that they shorted us on the number of formulae that can be used. So take care with any lavish use of +,-,*,/.

B. Schaffler

Demo of specified number of columns less than 19. Automatic Pica with spaces between columns.

REVIEW
by: Betty Schaffler

```
   <--1--> <--2--> <--3--> <--4-->
A  This is  a samp le of t he type
B  of prin tout av ailable  with
C  the cus tomized  versio n by
D  Jack Do hany of  Redwoo d City,
E  Calif.
F
G  Vu-Calc  by Psi on is a  program
H  written  for th e T/S 2 068 and
I  has bee n aroun d for q uite a
J  long ti me, and  is not  unlike
K  other s preadsh eets th at are
L  availab le. But  what J ack has
M  done by  making  it ava ilable
N  on Lark en disc  and ha ving a
O  big pri nter ha rd copy , has
P  made it  a much  more u sable
Q  and wor thwhile  progra m.
R   This i s one f ull scr een.

   <--1--> <--2--> <--3--> <--4-->
```

Editor's Note: Jack Dohany's VU-CALC program provides for titles at the top of the display if desired. Text is printed after each title line is typed in. This text is not saved data and must be typed in for each copy.

As Betty mentions, it is possible to switch between printer IFs as the driver (SD1) supports 2040, AERCO, TASMAN, and A & J. The switch is done with pokes. LPRINT only is supported.

I also ran out of the number of formulae by running totals on a final of 12 columns, and a series of lines, making a line total after each monthly input of added columns for cross-checking. The solution was to take the totals up to that date when it quit, make this a sumation of that number of months, input this data into a new spreadsheet, and go on from there.

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The user has the choice of integer numbers or decimal format. If decimal is called for, than all other numbers must be in "text" mode.

Demo of specified number of columns equal to maximum of 19. Automatic compressed printing. The page is cut to show ends of printing, top and bottom and sides.

VU-CALC
Review by B Schaffler

```
<--1--><--2--><--3--><--4--><--5--><--6---17-><--18-><--19->
A  This is a sample of the type
B  of printout available with
C  the customized version by
D  Jack Dohany of Redwood City,
E  Calif.
F
G  Vu-Calc by Psion is aprogram
H  written for the T/S 2068 and
I  has been around for quite a
J  long time, and is not unlike
K  other spreadsheets that are
L  available. But what Jack has
M  done by making it available
N  on Larken disc and having a
O  big printer hard copy, has
P  made it a much more usable
Q  and worthwhile program.
R   This is one full screen.
S
T
U
AU
AV
AW
AX
<--1--><--2--><--3--><--4--><--5--><--6--·17-><--18-><--19->
```

QL/MS-DOS

Dick F. Wagner

While I haven't really used the Micro Soft operating system conversion for the QL computer, I have gone into it far enough at this time to learn a couple of things about implementing the program. First, the disk drive set up is a 40 track drive for drive #1 and an 80 track drive for #2, QL terminoligy. In contrast, the first drive for MS-DOS is called "A" and the second is "B" while those using a hard drive would call it "C".

Here is the interesting thing. I can start-up with either of two disk systems, 40 track or 80 track. The system came with 80 track disks but RMG Enterprises provided two 40 track disks, one called "Solution" and the other "MS-DOS". In using the 80 track disks, drive #2 is called with the QL loading command. Once "Solution" is installed, MS-DOS is loaded with a MS-DOS command and the second or 80 track drive shows up as drive "A"! Apparently the disk drive jumpers for identifying drives don't mean much once a drive has been assigned the first drive by "Solution".

To further check this out, an operating copy of MS-DOS was made for 80 track disk by making a save on the 40 track drive which is now drive "B", and then making a duplicate on the 80 track drive, drive "A" which originally was drive #2.

Early efforts to load "Solution" were unsuccessful, using the BOOT program. So far, the only loading method I can use is the Tool Kit 2 loading as "EXEC_W FLP2_SOLUTION". When the "balloon" shows up press ENTER and then use "2" for drive #2. This assumes use of the 80 track drive. Change disks to MS-DOS and ENTER again. This brings up the MS-DOS operating system.

THE BULL PEN SINCLAIR USERS UNITE

Some select messages logged by Michael Carver.

Message #459 "Sinclair"
Date: 03-May-89 07:02
From: Ed Grey
To: All
Subj: Great ECHO!!

It sure is good to see all the T/S traffic here on the Sinclair ECHO. Take care.
    Ed Grey, Sysop of Grey Matter BBS (213-971-6260)
 * Origin: The Bull Pen <=-Sinclair Users Unite!-=> (1:105/204)

>> >> >>

Message #481 "Sinclair" (RECEIVED)
Date: 30-Apr-89 23:29
From: Tim Campbell
To: Don Walterman
Subj: Re: WC2050 MODEM

Thanks - I´m not really in any big hurry to sell it. It just sits around collecting dust mostly. (Actually I keep it in a box so it doesn´t even do much of that). I just mentioned to Stu once that I´ve got a Timex and actually have a modem for it (This thing probably has been used about 4-5 times ever) - until Stu´s board I never met anybody who had a modem for a Timex. Anyway I mentioned I might as well sell it & Stu thought this would be a good place.

Who knows... maybe it´ll be inducted into the Smithsonian someday as a historical landmark (that cheapest, programmable computer ever - or something like that).
 * Origin: <T>he <S>erial <P>ort - HST - Mt.Clemens, Mi 313-286-0145 (71/48)

Message #482 "Sinclair" (RECEIVED)
Date: 01-May-89 02:33
From: Keith Watson
To: Rod Gowen
Subj: Re: LEMKE GOES PUBLIC!

Hi Rod,
I would like to thank you, the others at your end and Stu Jackson at this end (Mt. Clemens, Mi) for setting up the echo system. Now we here can get more info on the Timex world.
.....Keith
 * Origin: <T>he <S>erial <P>ort - Mt.Clemens, Mi 313-286-0145 (71/48)

Message #483 "Sinclair" (RECEIVED)
Date: 02-May-89 19:54
From: Don Walterman
To: Bob Currie
Subj: Re: TIMEX ECHO

Bob, Its great to see the echo working here in Detroit. I talked to the SYSOP of the Kings Mountain BBS and he is very interested in carrying the Timex Echo as well. He should be contacting you shortly......Don
P.S. The Kings Mountain BBS is in Denver, Co.
 * Origin: <T>he <S>erial <P>ort - HST - Mt.Clemens, Mi 313-286-0145 (71/48)

Message #484 "Sinclair"
Date: 02-May-89 20:01
From: Don Walterman
To: Keith Watson
Subj: T/S TO IBM

Keith, I´ve been thinking about a serious HW/SW project. Maybe we can discuss it on the trip to the Show. I´ve been wondering how hard it would be to use IBM I/O cards with the 2068/QL. Since the pc boards are memory mapped we should be able to address them. So far, I´ve rounded up a passive IBM I/O backplane with power connector, and 2 technical manuals with the memory addresses for various cards. For example, to talk to an IBM parallel port you only need to address 3 locations. One for the data, one for status from the printer and one control register......Don
 * Origin: <T>he <S>erial <P>ort - HST - Mt.Clemens, Mi 313-286-0145 (71/48)

Message #486 "Sinclair"
Date: 02-May-89 20:05
From: Don Walterman
To: Sysop
Subj: THANKS

Stu,
Thanks for adding the Timex echo. Its just the thing for the few T/S diehards in each city. This may be the first time we can all meet each other. It also should make it easier to communicate with people on the west coast as opposed to long distance charges....Don
 * Origin: <T>he <S>erial <P>ort - HST - Mt.Clemens, Mi 313-286-0145 (71/48)

Message #493 "Sinclair" (RECEIVED)
Date: 04-May-89 03:20
From: Tim Woods
To: Michael Carver
Subj: Z88

Here´s some more heavies that have purchased large quantities of the little black Pandora: Livermore Labs, Los Alamos Labs, Nuclear Defense Pact, GE Research & Dev., Scripps Institute, Pitney Bowes...and Rob Curry (Curry Computer) mentioned that a local TV anchorwoman walked in off the street...plunked down $500...and carried off a new Z88.
                         Tim
 * Origin: The Bull Pen <=-Sinclair Users Unite!-=> (1:105/204)

FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK

May 12 was another marker in the history of CCAT/S. I believe all who attended the no-host dinner at Gates restaurant were quite surprised and pleased at the attendance. Out of 20 local members 15 were at the dinner. There were 15 family members and one member, Bill Dunlop, arrived later in his working uniform (clown suit). Thanks to Bob Evans it was very nice.

There was a good assortment of foods. Service left a bit to be desired for several members as there was only one waitress for this large group. She sure did her best.

As this was a non-business meeting we will be having meetings every month for the remainder of the year in place of skipping one during the summer vacation period. Expect low attendance for July and August. There will be a combined July-August newsletter as usual, and a meeting notice will be mailed to members for the July meeting.

One of my sons is working on an interesting computer, quite different from what we think of as a computer. Imagine a set of instruments to measure various water conditions many thousands of feet deep in the ocean. Add to this a computer with these instruments that periodically interrogates the instruments and stores the data. This computer is self-contained.

Readings are to be periodically collected from the computer memory by a small remote controlled submersible. This machine will have lights, TV camera, gripping arms, 6-axis movement, special attaching port to accept data from the computer, and power recharging device. Kind of a search and find by remote control! Hopefully this equipment will be tested this year.

Do you remember the VU-CALC program developed for the 2068, and wondered what to do with it? Member Betty Schaffler has been using it for home accounting needs, now that Jack Dohany has it improved for big printer use. Her report is in this issue, including some samples of the way it prints. I have been using this program for a year to keep track of my retirement income which is variable. A monthly print-out gives me a record of income to date. Also very handy at income tax time.

I wonder if any of our members are taking advantage of our group library. We have a library index on ProFile LKDOS disk so it is easy to find a subject. Each user group newsletter is filed in note book binders. There is a wealth of information just for the looking. As RMG Enterprises is open in the evenings and this is where our library is kept, it is easy to obtain a book or two to read. As newsletters come into Rod's location, they are accumulated and then Galen indexes important subjects and adds them to the file disk. So, give Rod a call to be sure the library is intact before making a trip. A suggestion is to have Galen give a monthly report on newsletters received and some of the titles of subjects of interest.

Going back a few years, have any of our members used the Turtle Graphics package that came with the 2068? Or how about Turtle Graphics on the QL? It just might be a good idea to look at these programs again to see what can be done with them. If you generate a nice graphic send it in as a screen dump. How do you make a screen dump on the QL? See the short article in this issue.

Have any of our members worked with the new desk top publishing packages? If so, we need reports to help members to understand what is on the market and what these programs accomplish. Apparently Larken is to have such a program out this year. I think these programs have limited use for newsletters unless all of the material is re-typed to fit. It may be a trade off for cutting and pasting.

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QL DUMP

Dick F. Wagner

This suggestion from the November 1986 issue of ZX Monthly magazine would seem to have some uses. Perhaps we can get a report for the next issue of THE PLOTTER on just how well it works. Come on, you QL users, send in a report.

There is a screen dump facility on the EASEL cartridge called GPRINT_PRT and is said to work with any Epson type printer.

Load it by typing:
```
a=RESPR(2000):LBYTES
MDV1_GPRINT_PRT,a
```

When you want to print a screen either from within a program or after loading a predesigned screen, simply type "CALL a".

I haven't tried it but it may be a good one.

—NOTICE—

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas County Area T/S User Group. Meeting minutes carry the concensus of members present at meetings. This newsletter nor staff will be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

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